



## Cyprus

Andreas Demetriou  
Minister of Education and Culture



*Professor Andreas Demetriou was born in 1950, in Strongylo, Famagusta. He earned his PhD in Psychology from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki Greece in 1983. He started his professional career as a Member of the Academic Staff of the Department of Psychology of the Aristotle University and in 1992 was appointed as Professor of Developmental Psychology at the aforementioned University. In 1996 he was appointed as a Professor of Psychology at the University of Cyprus. Professor Demetriou has taught as a Fellow as well as a Professor at several Universities including the University of Porto, Portugal, Ljubljana and Maribor, Slovenia, Fribourg, Switzerland and the University of Melbourne, Australia. Professor Demetriou has addressed several lectures for technical seminars on cognitive development at more than 50 Universities all over the world, including the Universities of Stanford, Harvard, Yale, McGill and many more. He is a Member of many societies, including the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction, the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, the Society for Research in Child Development, and the American Psychological Society. He served as editor or board member of many journals, including the Advances in Learning and Instruction, Learning and Instruction: The Journal of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction, Developmental Science, Psychology: The Journal of the Hellenic Psychological Society. Between 2004 and 2008 Professor Demetriou was appointed as President of the Interim Governing Board of the Technological University of Cyprus, and during the academic year was elected as President of the Conference of Rectors of the Universities of Cyprus. Professor Demetriou was appointed as Minister of Education and Culture in March 2008. Professor Demetriou is married to Julia Tsakalea and has two sons Pantelis and Demetris.*

### **Inclusive Education: The Dream Becomes Reality in Cyprus**

«The overall aim of the education system in Cyprus is the development of free and democratic citizens...who contribute...to the promotion of cooperation, mutual understanding, respect and love among individuals and people for the prevalence of freedom, justice and peace».

In this context the Ministry of Education and Culture emphasizes the following priorities:

1. Development of the Active Democratic Citizen:
  - Respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each individual;
  - Respect for the opinion of the majority;
  - Equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life;
  - Active participation in the decision making processes;
  - Encouragement of cooperation and responsibility.
2. Creating favorable conditions for coexistence and cooperation, respect among people of different cultural backgrounds, intellectual and physical abilities as well as combating intolerance and xenophobia, in a world of increasing interaction between cultures and persons.

The State recognizes that all students have the right to an education appropriate to their needs and great efforts have been made to achieve this aim. Persons with



special educational requirements are provided with the services they need, in an inclusive and least restrictive environment.

The Cyprus Education System is open and sensitive to all political, social, economic and scientific pressures of our time. In an environment where change and adaptation is continuously needed, the Government of the Republic has launched an ambitious educational reform program, inviting dialogue among all stakeholders, with a view to turn into reality the vision for an educational system that would capitalize on the development of the instructional methodology and educational sciences in order to enhance learning, critical thinking and creativity for an open, democratic and prosperous society when human rights and social responsibility and solidarity prevail. It is an effort for a comprehensive introduction of reforms and innovations at all levels and aspects of the educational system.